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Title: House of the Crow

Author:  
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Centuries ago, a Noble Lord had arranged a marriage for his son to a young Lady in a faraway realm. The Noble sent his Elite House Guard, lead by the renowned Sir Verik Martingo, to escort the young lady back to his realm for the ceremony. The trip was uneventful until the column was a day's ride from returning home. As the House Guard crested Cragan's Hill, they found an enemy army camped in the vale below. Acting swiftly, Sir Martingo sent his most skilled Ranger back the way they came with the young lady. Before the enemy had time to react, Sir Martingo and his men charged into the encampment. They were outnumbered by the hundreds, but they attacked with such ferocity and skill, that the surprised enemy army could barely defend itself. In the end, the House Guard was killed and the army that trapped them had been cut down by more than half its original number. In the confusion, the brave Ranger was able to double back and sneak the Lady through the neighborings forest, and the enemy lines, to the safety of his Nobleman's Stronghold. With the bride-to-be safe, the Noble lead a

great force of his militia  
to Cragan's Hill to meet  
his invading foe. When  
they arrived, the  
weakened enemy had  
already retreated home,  
and all that remained  
were the scores of dead  
warriors. The battlefield  
was littered with crows  
picking at the corpses,  
except at the very  
center of the carnage.  
There, miraculously  
standing tall over his  
fallen men was Sir  
Martingo himself. As the  
militia hurried to his side  
they saw with horror the  
brave Knight was no  
longer living. Eerily, his  
battered and bloody body  
stood guard over his  
compatriots, propped upon  
the end of a long, barbed  
spear. The effect was  
chilling, not just to the  
soldiers, but to the  
crows and carnivores that  
littered the battlefield.  
Not one of the men who  
lay below Sir Martingo  
had been approached by  
the birds. The Noble Lord  
was brought to tears by  
this display of courage  
and sacrifice, and he  
subsequently created a  
new Great House in his  
realm in honor of Sir  
Martingo, the House of  
the Crow.